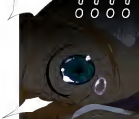




W  
A  
A  
A  
A  
H  
H  
H



0000



WHAT'S WITH ALL  
THE NOISE?

WHAT'S GOING ON  
OUT HERE??



**FINDER** AM 9:00  
PM 6:00



UWAH

L-L-L-LOOK

?





UMMM



!!!!!!



**WAAAA  
AAHH~!!**

**AAAAAA  
AAHH!!**



**WHAT ARE YOU  
TWO DOING?**

WHAT'S WITH  
THE SHOUTING...



**-N-**

**-NINE?!**





YES?  
WHAT'S UP WITH  
YOU GUYS?

IS IT REALLY YOU, NINE?  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
YOUR HAIR??

MY HAIR?  
AH, IS IT ALL  
FRIZZY BECAUSE  
I JUST WOKE UP?

FINDER AM 7:00  
PM 6:00



...NOT  
QUITE...

THEN WHY...

**WHAT?!**

**W-WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
MY HAIR?!!**

**THAT'S WHAT  
WE WANT TO KNOW.**



WRITTEN / ILLUSTRATED BY JIM-JIM COOPER  
BACKGROUND ART BY WAGS-JIM GILL  
COLORING ASSISTANCE BY EYE-BOOTS CHEN  
VOLUME 02 OF 14 STEVEN EPOQUES

8





**PFFT-!**

**BWAHAHAHA~!!**

**STOP LAUGHING,  
SA-HWAN!**





**SHUT UP ALREADY.  
YOU'RE SO LOUD  
WE CAN'T EVEN  
TALK!**

**HAHAHAHA!  
OKAY, OKAY.  
PFFT!**

**WHY DO YOU  
HAVE TO BE SO RUDE?  
DON'T LISTEN TO  
HIM, NINE.**

**NO, I UNDERSTAND.  
I MUST LOOK QUITE  
AMUSING.  
YOU COULDN'T STOP  
LAUGHING AT FIRST  
EITHER.**



**SO, WHENEVER  
YOU INGEST A PLANT  
IT'LL START SPROUTING  
FROM YOUR BODY?**

**YES, BUT I  
NEVER IMAGINED  
IT WOULD GROW  
THIS WAY.**





DO YOU NOT  
REMEMBER ANYTHING  
ELSE?

LIKE HOW LONG  
IT TAKES BEFORE  
SPROUTING OR HOW LONG  
UNTIL IT GOES BACK  
TO NORMAL?

AH, ACTUALLY,  
I HAVE SOMETHING TO  
SHOW YOU.

ALTHOUGH  
I'VE NOT READ  
IT ALL MYSELF  
YET EITHER.

I WAS PLANNING  
TO SHOW YOU  
IN THE MORNING

?

IN THE MORNING  
ANYWAY.

OH.  
A NOTEBOOK?

ARE THOSE  
SEEDS AND FRUITS  
IN YOUR POCKETS  
TOO?

YES. ACTUALLY.  
THIS WAS MY PURPOSE.  
I COULDN'T TELL YOU  
ABOUT THIS BEFORE.

IS THIS AN  
ILLUSTRATED PLANT  
ENCYCLOPEDIA?  
IT'S FULL OF DETAILS  
ON THEIR PROPERTIES  
AND EFFECTS!

IT SEEMS TO HAVE  
BEEN WRITTEN FOR YOU  
SPECIFICALLY. IT EVEN

...SAYS HOW LONG  
IT TAKES AFTER YOU  
EAT EACH PLANT.



OH, ALSO...

RUSTLE

!



THIS...

**THIS IS  
INCREDIBLE!!**

?



?

01:00

02:00

03:00

I THOUGHT  
I'D KNOWN ALMOST  
EVERYTHING  
BUT I'VE NEVER  
EVEN SEEN SOME  
OF THESE BEFORE!

THERE'S INFORMATION  
ON THE SEEDS  
IN YOUR POCKET.  
NO WAY! THESE ARE  
SUPPOSED TO BE EXTINCT!

HEY, THAT'S NOT  
IMPORTANT  
RIGHT NOW! WE  
NEED TO FIND OUT  
ABOUT PEYOTE.

GIVE IT HERE.  
I'LL FIND IT.

AH, SORRY.  
YOU'RE RIGHT.  
I'LL HAVE A L—



04:00



H-HEY,  
WAIT A SECOND!

YOU CAN  
STUDY IT LATER...

...IT SEEMS LIKE THE PAPER  
AND BINDINGS HAVE  
DELIBERATELY BEEN DAMAGED  
TO TRICK YOU INTO  
THINKING IT'S OLD.

AND IT'S WRITTEN  
IN THE SAME  
STYLE USED FOR  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DOCUMENTS BY THE  
"AGENCY"

WILLIAM  
SHAW

...IS NINE RELATED  
TO THEM...

THEY WENT AS FAR AS  
TO MAKE A REFERENCE  
BOOK CUSTOMIZED

ESPECIALLY FOR HIM...

WHO THE HELL  
IS THIS KID?

**?!!!**



**WAIT--  
THIS IS--**

**HMM?  
WHAT'S UP??**





YOU'VE  
SEEN IT TOO.

HUH?  
HAVE I?

**THAT'S!!!**



THESE PATTERNS  
ARE JUST LIKE  
THE ONES ON THE RELIC!

BUT WHY ARE  
THEY IN HERE...

DID YOU KNOW  
ABOUT THIS, NINE?

YEAH.  
IS THERE  
SOMETHING  
SPECIAL ABOUT  
THEM?



I'D NEVER SEEN  
ANYTHING LIKE THIS  
UNTIL YESTERDAY.  
SA-HWAN, YOU TOO,  
RIGHT?

REALLY? FOR SOME  
REASON THEY FELT  
FAMILIAR TO ME SO  
I JUST ASSUMED THEY  
WERE COMMON.

.....



THERE'S ALSO  
SOME KIND OF LETTER  
WRITTEN ON THE  
NEXT PAGE.

A LETTER?

LET ME SEE!



**SWIPE!**



**MAYBE IT WILL GIVE  
US A CLUE TO HELP  
RECOVER NINE'S  
MEMORIES!**

**RUSTLE**

**HMM. EXCEPT FOR  
THE FINAL PART.  
THE PAGE IS SO DAMAGED  
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO READ IT.**

**IT WAS LIKE THAT  
WHEN I FIRST  
LOOKED AT IT.  
TOO.**





HEY, SA-HWAN.  
DO YOU THINK  
IT'D BE POSSIBLE TO  
RESTORE THIS?

HMM. MAYBE 'AL'  
WOULD BE ABLE TO  
MANAGE IT?

**YOU'RE RIGHT!!**  
'AL' SHOULD BE  
ABLE TO DO IT!

DON'T WORRY.  
HE COMES BACK  
TOMORROW SO I'LL  
ASK HIM THEN!



THANK YOU.

BUT...  
WHO IS AL?

HE'S A COO  
REPAIRMAN.  
SOMETIMES THEY  
CAN SPACE OUT  
OR ACT A LITTLE  
WEIRD.

EVERY TIME THAT  
HAPPENS HE COMES  
TO FIX THEM  
AND ALSO INSPECTS  
THE REST OF THE COO  
AROUND TOWN.

WOULD HE BE  
ABLE TO FIX  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS, TOO?

MAYBE.  
IT'S NOT JUST COO.  
HE CAN FIX  
ANYTHING.

OF COURSE.  
WE WON'T KNOW  
UNTIL WE TRY.





I HOPE SO.  
I'M REALLY CURIOUS  
ABOUT WHAT'S IN  
THAT LETTER.

DON'T WORRY.  
I'M SURE THERE'LL  
BE CLUES TO  
RECOVER YOUR  
MEMORIES  
INSIDE IT.

.....

**HEY,  
PLANT MAN**

WHY DID YOU  
DECIDE TO SHOW  
THIS TO US?



—HUHP?



JUST A COUPLE  
DAYS AGO YOU DIDN'T  
TELL US ANY  
OF THIS.

HAVE WE SUDDENLY  
BECOME CLOSE  
ENOUGH FOR YOU TO  
SHARE AFTER SUCH  
LITTLE TIME  
TOGETHER?

AH. ABOUT THAT.  
NOT ONLY  
DID YOU SAVE MY LIFE.  
BUT YOU ALSO HELPED  
ME SO MUCH.

THEN  
WHY COULDN'T  
YOU TELL US  
THE FIRST TIME  
WE ASKED?

STOP IT  
SA-IWAN.  
IT'S NOT  
IMPORTANT.

I CAN'T TRUST  
SOMEONE WHO IS  
SO INCONSISTENT.



I'M SORRY.

ACTUALLY. JUST  
BEFORE I WENT  
TO SLEEP I RE-READ  
THE PART THAT WAS  
INTACT JUST IN CASE  
THERE WAS  
SOMETHING.

AND AFTER SEEING  
THE LAST THING THAT  
WAS WRITTEN.



THE LAST PART  
OF THE LETTER...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD  
BE FINE IF I TOLD YOU  
TWO EVERYTHING.



WHAT ARE YOU  
GOING ON ABOUT  
NOW?

I DON'T CARE WHAT  
THEY WROTE. SO I'LL  
JUST...

HERE, READ  
THIS!



IT'S A BIT  
EMBARRASSING...

IT'S NOTHING TO BE  
EMBARRASSED  
ABOUT~  
IT'S NICE~



.....

YAAAAWW  
I'M SO EXHAUSTED. I  
SHOULD GO BACK TO  
BED.

IF YOU WANT TO READ  
MORE GO DO IT IN YOUR  
OWN HOUSE

PFFT. THAT  
YAWN WAS SO  
FAKE

(frowns)

**FINDER** AM 1:00  
PM 5:00

NO IT  
WASNT!!

...BUT. HOW LONG  
IS MY HAIR GOING TO BE  
LIKE THIS?

OH SORRY.  
I COMPLETELY FORGOT.

WHERE IS IT..  
PEYOTE, PEYOTE..  
P. P. P.

~\*~  
I SAID I'M  
GOING TO BED!





**YOU'RE LATE.**



**!!!!**



***M-MASTER!!!***

.....

***H-HOW LONG  
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING  
HERE!?***

***EXACTLY ONE HOUR  
AND TWO MINUTES.  
YOU'VE WASTED  
MY PRECIOUS TIME.***

M-MY APOLOGIES,  
MASTER!!  
BUT WE HAVE A  
REASON.

HMM~??

SHHHH...

*TO BE CONTINUED*

Team Saladdressing